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## State of North Carolina

## **Htilities** Commission

4325 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-4325

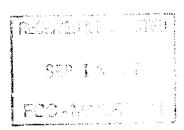
COMMISSIONERS EDWARD S. FINLEY, Jr., Chairman ROBERT V. OWENS, JR. SAM J. ERVIN, IV

September 13, 2007

COMMISSIONERS LORINZO L. JOYNER JAMES Y. KERR, II HOWARD N. LEE WILLIAM T. CULPEPPER, III

Ms. Marlene Dortch Office of the Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room TW-B204 Washington, D.C. 20554

Ms. Karen Majcher Vice President, High Cost and Low Income Division Universal Service Administrative Company 2000 L Street, N.W., Suite 200 Washington, D.C. 20036



Re: Certification of the Comparability of Residential Rates in Rural Areas of North Carolina Served by Non-Rural Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers to Urban Rates Nationwide Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Section 54.316, CC Docket No. 96-45 Released October 27, 2003

NCUC Docket No. P-100, Sub 133L

Dear Ms. Dortch and Ms. Majcher:

The North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC), pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Section 54.316, hereby certifies that residential rates in rural areas of North Carolina served by non-rural incumbent local exchange carriers are comparable to urban rates nationwide. This certification is based on the fact that all rural residential rates in North Carolina are below the nationwide urban benchmark of \$34.58 and therefore comply with the "safe harbor" provision.

Please note that the only non-rural carrier receiving high cost support in North Carolina is North State Telephone Company, d/b/a North State Communications (SAC 230491).

Sincerely,

Edward S. Finley, Jr.

Chairman

DL/ph

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